



April 20, 2005

Gary Feldman  
Harvard University

John Cooper  
Fermilab PPD, MS 208

Dear Gary and John,

Thank you for your updated proposal and your presentations on NOvA (P-929) to the Physics Advisory Committee. The PAC made the attached comments to me following an extensive discussion at the April meeting.

The Committee found that NOvA meets the criteria they developed last June and that it is the best approach to address the compelling neutrino physics questions ahead of us. They judged NOvA to be well designed, fully competitive, and complementary to other efforts. They also consider it to be the right platform for further steps in the evolving neutrino program worldwide. The Committee recommended Stage I approval.

Organizing the best program of neutrino research with Fermilab's accelerators is critical to the strength of the particle physics program in the US and worldwide. I agree with the Committee's judgment that NOvA is the right experiment to anchor this program, and I agree that now is the time to act. I therefore grant Stage I approval to the NOvA experiment.

We are all aware of the continuing review process before final funding can be in place, and I will try to involve members of the PAC in the preparations for this process. As part of that process, it would be helpful if you could respond to the queries and suggestions by June. I am also telling the laboratory management to work with you to get a fast start on developing the needed project management infrastructure. There are many challenges to starting up a project in the present environment, but we are committed to advance the project as quickly as possible.

Again, thank you for your efforts and congratulations on receiving Stage I approval for NOvA. Let's get to work, for we all have a lot to do.

Sincerely,

Michael Witherell

Attachment

cc:

P. Oddone  
K. Stanfield  
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